

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00453 180753Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-10
AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00
ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 GSA-02 IO-13
/168 W

-----054072 182034Z /72

R 180722Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9197
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL UDORN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 453

BANGKOK ALSO PASS UDORN ELECTRICALLY

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EMIN EALR LA FR
SUBJ: LAO TIN PRODUCTION

REF: A. 77 VIENTIANE 1330, B. BANGKOK 10335

1. THE FRENCH COMMERCIAL ATTACHE IN VIENTIANE TOLD US
APRIL 15 THAT THE TWO TIN MINES LOCATED IN KHAMMOUANE
PROVINCE HAD STOPPED EXCAVATING ORE IN SEPTEMBER 1977.
THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC HAD AT THAT TIME
TOTALLY NATIONALIZED THE MINE, WHICH HAD BEEN OPERATED
BY THE FRENCH COMPANY "SOCIETE D'ETUDES ET D'EXPLORA-
TION MINIERES DE L'INDOCHINE" (SEEMI), REF A. HE SAID
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THAT THE LAO CONTINUED, HOWEVER, TO EXPORT TIN ORE THAT
IT HAD STOCKPILED BEFORE THE EXCAVATION OF NEW ORE HAD
STOPPED.

2. THE COMMERCIAL ATTACHE SAID THAT TIN EXPORTS IN
1976 AND 1977 HAD FALLEN OFF FROM THE 1974 EXPORTATION
LEVEL, WHICH A 1975 WORLD BANK STUDY HAD VALUED AT \$2

MILLION. A FRENCH DIPLOMAT (REF A) SAID THAT THE LPDR HAD EARNED OVER \$1 MILLION IN TIN EXPORT REVENUES IN 1976. REF B REPORTED THAT THE LAO HAD BEEN PRODUCING ABOUT 1,000 TONS OF CONCENTRATES ANNUALLY.

3. COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT LPDR TIN EXPORT EARNINGS HAVE DIMINISHED, AND WE WOULD EXPECT THE 1978 TIN EXPORTS TO BE EVEN LESS THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS.
ROBERTS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: EMIN, EALR, LA, FR
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